



# RAFAEL TIRADO

## ‘Winemaker of the Year’

-Tim Atkin (2023 Chile Report)

**Year Founded: 1993**

**Region: Maule Valley, Chile**

**Winemaker/owner: Rafael Tirado**

**Fun fact: Over the course of his decades long career, he has made wine around the world, managed several mid-sized Chilean wineries, many of which are exported to the USA, and has become one of the most sought-after wine consultants in Chile.**

**-Organic-**

As one of ten children, Rafael Tirado has long been prepared to navigate his way through life. Rafael purchased land in the Eastern Maule Valley in the front range of the Chilean Andes and planted his first estate vines in 1993 on volcanic ash over granite. He currently has five parcels totaling 18ha of vines. His vineyards are legally recognized to be located within the Colbun DO and currently is the only estate producer in the DO. Much of his vineyard is planted in various orientations, some of which are planted in the shape of a labyrinth. Rafael built a small gravity fed winery and a geothermal barrel and bottle room on the property, and currently produces estate wines under the Laberinto and Vistalago labels. We believe these wines to be some of the most classical expressions of terroir in all of Chile, and Rafael Tirado to be a beacon of artisan Chilean Wine.



### **2023 Laberinto Cenizas Sauvignon Blanc, Colbún**



This hand harvested, single vineyard, 100% estate Sauvignon Blanc is from vines that Rafael Tirado planted himself in 1993. Fermented in 100% stainless steel for 6 months which leads to a very juicy and refreshing wine. The grapes were macerated in the press for 4-6 hours at 11°C. Unoaked. Bright nose with Guava, passion fruit, and lemon leading to a mineral mid palate and soft undertones of crushed rock. The volcanic ash from the vineyard adds to this minerality and sustained finish.

**93 Points – James Suckling** – “Pure white fruit and limes with seashells, gooseberry leaves and chalk. Acid-driven on the palate, with a laser beam of acidity cutting through. Limey and lightly saline in the finish with linear fruit. Really sharp and gastronomic.”



## 2022 Laberinto Arcillas Pais, Colbún

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100% single vineyard País planted in 1995. Native yeast. Aged in clay amphora and concrete tanks for 8 months on its lees. Fermented 18 days on skins. Unfined and unfiltered.

**93 Points – James Suckling** – *“Nervy white pepper funk, grilled grapefruit, peat and wild raspberries. Juicy and nicely rustic, with textured fruit tannins. A very well-made pais that shows tension, structure and drinkability.”*

## 2023 Laberinto Cenizas Pinot Noir, Colbún

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This hand harvested, single vineyard, 100% estate Pinot Noir is from vines that Rafael Tirado planted himself in 1998. Aged in used French oak barrels for 12 months. 3-day cold maceration before fermentation with a total maceration of 16 days. Unfined and unfiltered. The wine shows crushed red fruit of raspberry and strawberry with hints of eucalyptus. Undertones of wet forest floor and baking spices of clove and cinnamon come through on the finish. The oak is well integrated and lets the soft, sexy, terroir driven fruit shine.

**93 Points - '22 James Suckling** - *“Salted plums, savory berries, cooked grapefruit and touches of chalk and moss. Juicy and medium-bodied on the palate with good mid-palate volume and a long, flavorful finish. Remains ethereal in nature.”*

## 2022 Mezcla Tinta, Colbún

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This hand harvested, single vineyard, is a blend of 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that Rafael Tirado planted himself in 1993. 3-day cold maceration before fermentation. With a total maceration of 22 days. Aged in used French barrels, 14 months. The palate is full-bodied with lavish ripe black cherries, blackberries, blueberry and cassis fruit that coat the mouth. Hints of eucalyptus and violets lead to a structured yet smooth finish with subtle hints of oak; succulent fruit with good grip.